

# Miscellaneous Notes

## 1. PALM SQUIRREL (*FUNAMBULUS PALMARUM*, LINNAEUS) IN AUSTRALIA

Palm squirrels, *Funambulus* sp. occur only in the Oriental Zoogeographical Region. Recently *Funambulus* was reported by Abdulali (1964 *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 61: 495) from Port Blair, Andamans, Chaturvedi (1965, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 62: 545-46) identified as *F. pennanti*, skins collected from Port Blair. Abdulali's conjecture is that they are a recent introduction to the island.

I was surprised to see the Palm Squirrel, *Funambulus palmarum* in the Taronga Park, Sydney, Australia, where they were numerous. It was amusing to watch the familiar Indian mammal in a distant country. They were mostly found on Eucalyptus trees. Their habits appeared unchanged, climbing and descending the trees, coming to the park roads for feeding, and fleeing back at speed with frantic squeaks accompanied by quick jerks of the tail.

These squirrels are also found in Perth, but entirely confined to the vicinity of the Zoological Gardens. These were introduced in the Perth Zoo early in this century and some escaped from the zoo into the surrounding garden. Some were sent to the Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney in about 1942; where a few escaped and established a colony in the Park and the immediate neighbourhood. The authorities of the Zoological gardens, Perth, made an effort under instructions from the Australian Quarantine authorities, to eradicate this rodent but a few animals still persist. It will, however, be interesting to watch the fate of these two colonies of the Indian squirrel, widely separated geographically on a distant country where they have thrived for quite sometime.

SPECIAL ANIMAL STUDIES DIVISION,  
CENTRAL ARID ZONE RESEARCH INSTITUTE,  
JODHPUR.

ISHWAR PRAKASH

October 14, 1966.

## 2. GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*PODICEPS CRISTATUS*, LINN.) IN NEPAL

I was very interested to read K. Himmatsinhji's note on the Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus* Linn.) in Kutch in Vol. 62 (3): 551, December 1965 of the *Journal*. This year, a solitary Great Crested Grebe in full breeding plumage spent several weeks of April in the tank known as Rani Pokhari which is right in the centre of Kathmandu and surrounded by busy streets and traffic. I did not make a note of the exact